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The California Garden

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Between Two Opinions

"Get the meat first, and then the silver platter to put it on; go after commerce and make the city beautiful afterwards."

"Make your city beautiful and commercial prosperity is sure to come."

¶ ¶ ¶

This is not campaign material for or against a living soul and is only mentioned at this time for the reason that these two directly opposite opinions were brought forcibly to public attention within the week just past.

The first is the slogan of an estimable citizen of San Diego; the latter, the opinion of a much-traveled man from across the great ocean.

It brings up a question of city policy which comes close to the hearts of many of our citizens, not all of whom should be classed with poets and dreamers. To these citizens, from any standpoint you take, whether it be dollars and cents alone, the joy of living amid pleasant surroundings, or a combination of the two, this conviction grows stronger in their minds day by day, "Let us make our city beautiful and attractive as we go along."

Every disinterested man coming to us from the great world centers attempts to convince us of the importance of adopting some definite plan of civic improvement. They tell of millions being spent to acquire a block to let in a little sunshine; they speak of building restrictions which consider a pleasing harmony and uniformity, as well as the number and location of fire-escapes; they look with pity upon us for our lack of foresight in allowing our one great opportunity, the waterfront, to get farther and farther from our actual control; they tell us we will save thousands, and perhaps millions, by "doing it now!" They go down to the bay, which looks so inviting from a distance, to get a sniff of the salt breeze, but are regaled with a whiff from decayed fish and piles of death-dealing debris.

And yet, we might hurl their perhaps well-meaning advice back at them—request them not to bu—intrude with their unsought opinions and suggestions, were it not that we see our own people, men who enjoy free life and fresh air, and to whom it would seem, that the preservation and protection of our natural resources would be a welcome privilege, who seemingly prefer stench and decay, to the clean and wholesome as well as beautiful.

Is it any wonder that some grow peevish, when they realize that they are expected to give up without a struggle all their cherished hopes and ambitions for a clean, happy, prosperous city development, along the lines that the experiences of others show to be eminently desirable? Must they be content to sit still and see that wonderful shore line gathered in, bit by bit, by selfish interests for paltry rentals, when at least a reasonable portion of it should be set aside forever for the free use of all?

Mere Supposition

Just suppose that there was some enterprising real estate subdivider, who had a tract of land which he wished to place on the market and give it an especially good start, and suppose that this tract was reasonably near the city and fairly easy of access by means of the car lines; suppose again that this far-seeing man should lay it out with a square in the center, not divided into lots; suppose that he should go to the San Diego Floral Association and say: "Here is a square in the center of my new tract, which belongs to you, provided you will erect a floral hall

to cost not less than $10,000, beautify the grounds around it with trees, shrubs and plants, surround the whole with street trees and a parked place between walks and curb, the public to have access to the grounds, unless closed temporarily for exhibition purposes, and the building to be used for flower shows, floral meetings, to be rented for art exhibits, concerts, recitals, dances, etc." Suppose all the foregoing should come to pass and the Floral Association should decide to accept the offer, what think you would be the result?

Just this: That tract would have one of the finest "show places" in Southern California. It would be a place where the lovers of the beautiful in nature could go for object lessons in plant growth. It would be a center around which a refined and cultured class of people would take delight in building pretty homes in harmony with the general scheme. The real estate man would not lose by his gift to the Floral Association, as it would be an improvement which would increase the value of every lot in the tract, and would warrant a higher price than he would be justified in placing on the lots otherwise.

Of course the Association will not be deluged with offers, as the places suitable for such a subdivision are not plentiful, nor are the men who are able to see the possibilities of such a move.

More Street Trees

HUGO KLAUBER

To readers of The Garden it should be unnecessary to talk about the advantages of street trees. This refers more particularly to our residential streets. The question of the advisability of trees on business streets will not be entered into here. Granted, therefore, that we want more trees on our streets, uniform planting, proper maintenance and protection, uniform trimming and all the things which make for beautiful street trees, how shall we accomplish this much to be desired result? It can be done in one way, and one way only—through municipal control, either through the city council or preferably through a special board of tree commissioners. Unfortunately our charter does not grant such powers to either of these bodies. A special act of the State Legislature, however, gives the necessary powers to the Council of any city which elects to come under its provisions.

This act is entitled "An act for the planting, maintenance and care of shade trees upon streets, lanes, alleys, courts and places within municipalities and of hedges upon lines thereof, also for the eradication of certain weeds within the city limits, approved March 11th, 1893, and acts amending same.

It comes before the voters of this city on April 8th, the day we elect our mayor.

By voting "yes" on this proposition, San Diego can and will in a few years be converted from a city with barren, unsightly and neglected streets, into one with beautiful tree-lined streets and boulevards, of which every citizen may be proud.

It should here be emphasized that the act specifies that the control of street trees must be in the hands of a street superintendent, who presumably would appoint a competent and experienced tree warden. Under such a man, who could doubtless be procured without any great difficulty, the work would go forward intelligently and rapidly. Under present conditions no officer of the city has any power, nor are there any funds to attend to the matter of planting and maintaining street trees. It seems inconceivable that a matter of such vital importance in the life and character of a city should be so shamefully neglected, but such is the case. There is no relief to be expected from any other effort. Other cities have tried various methods, but no results worthy of mentioning, excepting perhaps in small towns, have been accomplished excepting through a central control.

The experience of cities like Washington, D. C., Riverside and Redlands, Newark and East Orange, N. J., and any number of other cities, should arouse us to a determined effort to carry this proposition. It is now or never. We may never have another chance. The council has acceded to our desires to have the people decide this question. They will doubtless refuse to do so again, should it

fail at this election. Every member of the Floral Association should not only vote "yes" on this proposition, but should work unceasingly with friends and neighbors to get them to vote for it on April 8th. Let us profit by the experience of the few men who carried the playground amendments by their individual efforts. The silent opposition is always with us, and we must overcome it.

In the Gardens

The Vegetable Garden

George P. Hall

In the march of garden events no year in the history of the world has been so significant and anticipative of great results. The world is turning toward the gardener and his garden, as the earth continues to multiply and replenish and the number of mouths to feed increase in greater ratio than the ability to feed them. The question of what, how and when we shall grow things becomes more than a passing remark that "we will have to make garden." In California you have, last month, planted the entire list of cool weather vegetables, and if you neglected to do so, lose no time in getting busy with Mother Earth and tickle her as you never did before. This month begin at the alphabet of the garden products and plant everything from a to izzard. On the last of the month corn and cucumbers and all the melon family, which you have, of course, left room for. All the hot weather plants will be wondering why you kept them down in the seed bag so long and gave them no opportunity to express themselves. Put in a generous supply of potatoes for the family and some for the market. Do not go too strong if you haven't the best of potato soil, as they will charge you a whole lot more for seed than you will get for potatoes when you sell. Have you got your sweet potato bed coming? We told you how to fix it last month. Have you sown your potatoes and peppers in boxes and have them ready to transplant? If you transplant them often they get greater root force. "Toe hold" is what plants like.

In sowing your small seeds, like pansies, petunias and any small seed, be it vegetable or flower, you cannot use the same method as in planting beans or peas. The majority of plants when they germinate are as tender as babies. You would not just cover a baby up and let the hot sun scorch it, the rains drown it and the soil bake it, but that is just what lots of you do with many of the tender plants. Small seeds should be sown in beds or boxes or in sheltered places, where you can **control conditions** and not let the conditions destroy your hopes. March is the month of germination, and while it is the most variable of any of the year, it holds the greatest possibilities, because if you do not get plants sown and on their way to production you miss the psychological moment, as the scientists say. If you sow in boxes and pots be sure and have the drainage good by putting in the bottom broken stone or pottery, and make the soil—yes *make* it, just as you want it to be mixed, the right proportions of sand, manure and clay to form a friable loamy soil, just such as a baby seed wants to be in to start out right in life. It has made my heart ache to see people who claim to be Christians plant seeds in stiff, sticky, stony old spots and watch in expectancy for seed to germinate, and then blame seedsman for selling such poor seed. Of course, you may get old seed that has lost its vitality and long since gone down on the confirmed bachelor list, but you can easily test seed you must sow in the open by putting it between damp cotton batting cloths, keep warm, and in a few days the seed will sprout if it is any good. Small flat seed loses its vitality much sooner than round seeds, though under favorable conditions they retain their power to reproduce for many years, as is the case of the blackberry that was taken from the body of an Egyptian mummy—but we do not advise you to patronize those seedsmen who stock up on mummy seeds. The freshest and best are none too good. If weather conditions were perfect, i. e., soft, balmy, warm and damp—mushroom weather—you would have no difficulty in getting seed to grow, but just as a seed begins to peep out, along comes a drying wind from the north and the little plant sighs, "I wonder where my protector is;

why don't she shade me and shelter me from this wind and sun?" But the one who planted and left the box out on the front porch, where the cat could dig in it, is away at the club reading a paper before her scholastic sisters on the theme: "How Shall Women Change Their Environment", and she comes home and exclaims: "Why, the idea, my pansies are all burnt up; why didn't I think?"

The Flower Garden

Mary A. Matthews

When we go into the garden, these spring days, the question is not, "what is there to do." but "what shall I do first?" Weed's are growing rampant and need curbing, walks should be looked after, planting of roses, vines, deciduous shrubs and herbaceous plants ought to be carried on this month vigorously. If we have not given time and space to annuals heretofore, we should do it this season at least. The following list, with plantings about two weeks apart through this month, will make gay many spots that otherwise would be barren and forlorn, and we will need them all this summer in quantities. Cosmos (pink, white and the deep orange flowered "klondike"); sweet peas added to those already in the ground, lots of scarlet flax, larkspurs, lupins, coreopsis, snapdragons, poppies in sorts, candytuft, scabiosa (pin cushion flower), China pinks, annual chrysanthemums, gaillardia, celosia (the ostrich plume kind), Joseph's coat, which is an amaranthus, and "baby's breath" to combine the whole.

Start dahlias from seed. To have the very best, try a packet of Rosecroft seedlings with a subscription to California Garden. If you already have it, send the magazine to a friend and try what you can do with the seeds; you may get honorable mention at the dahlia show this summer. Start a box of seeds of China Asters for early blooms. It is best to buy in separate colors, as in mixed seeds of asters there are so many shades of purple and crimsons, etc., that are not desirable. When transplanting the seedlings put a thin pasteboard collar about 3 to 5 inches high around them. These can be cut at odd times and will protect the little plants from sun and wind till they are established and will also disappoint many a slug and cut worm.

This is a good month to watch early blooming bulbs and decide if they are suited to your purpose. Mark out any that you may want to move later. If on trial, bulbs seem to enjoy their location and increase, they may remain there indefinitely, but if after a season they do not bloom freely or propagate themselves, then at the proper season they should be lifted and a trial made in another location.

Agapanthas seem to have stood the cold snap well. Mulch them and give them a bed or border all to themselves, as their large, fleshy roots run in all directions, just under the ground, and it is hard to work around them without injury. Give them lots of water when bloom stalks appear. Variety Alba is pretty, but not so robust as the blue. Finish planting all summer blooming bulbs and don't forget another lot of gladiolus. We ought to grow lots of cannas this year. They are showy and good "fillers" for vacant spaces. For good results the beds should be spaded two feet deep with manure worked into the soil and a good supply of water at all times. For best garden effects, plant in large masses of one color putting the clumps two or three feet apart. Start now some bulbs of the tuberous rooted begonias in this way —put in a shallow box some spaghnum moss (about two inches deep) place the bulbs on this and cover with damp moss till the box is full, keep the moss just damp, and put in a sheltered spot. In a short time both top and roots will sprout. They can then be carefully lifted and put into pots or into the open ground, if the weather permits. Be careful not to give too much water at any one time. Gloxinias are more difficult to grow, but it can be done by potting them in a soil made up of sandy loam, some turfy matter and a good sprinkling of bone meal flour. Mix this well and give good drainage. Keep the soil moist, but not like mud and in watering be careful that none gets on the leaves. A good plan is to set the pot in water in a pan and let it take it up through the bottom.

Plants that were injured by the freeze will need looking after. Many of the shrubs that we thought at first were gone beyond recall, are beginning to show renewed life, so be careful about taking them out unless you are sure they are dead. Solanum, Rantonetti, Streptosolen, Jamesii, Duranti and others that are consid-

ered tender, are all sprouting round the roots. The Veronica and Tecoma Capense, both on the northwest side, have never ceased blooming. Statice Latifolia is growing from the tops of the branches, and if you will lift the dead leaves around the base of old plants, you will probably find some small seedlings. Try at least one or two novelties this season, from various sources. Among bulbs the new montbretias, with flowers 3 to 5 inches across and gorgeous colors (according to catalogs) ought to be good. A new Penstemon (Hartuigii Albus) a friend tells me she has tried, and that it is all they claim for it—fine stalks of creamy white bloom carried well above the foliage.

The new Artemesia, "summer fir," ought to do well here, and so on indefinitely through a long list of new things.

The Rose

How fast the roses are pushing their buds after their good rest. The wood is firm and dark as mahogany with a sheen on it that means business. The cuttings that were put in the last two months are growing almost without exception and the Queen of the Garden can complacently allow the brief reign of the violet and narcissus for her time is coming. Now the roses can use lots of fertilizer of almost any kind, but stable manure is the best, unless your are ultra fastidious. That famous English rosarian and divine, Dean Hole, told a story on himself how he unexpectedly ran into two of his most exclusive lady parishioners while engaged in transporting some fertilizer, just deposited by their carriage horse on his path, to his favorite rose bush. This is referred to merely to show that good society has used stable manure and done it with its own hands. If you want quality rather than quantity, go among your bushes and rub off two-thirds of the shoots, selecting those for preservation which will draw on the whole force of the roots and not interfere with each other in growth. Look out for aphis, while steeling your heart to use finger and thumb. Over the bodies of men the general rides to victory. Such is the price of success, sacrifice. There be those who say fleas won't bite if you don't try to kill them, but it must be obvious that as the flea lives by biting, if he do not bite the sparer of his life he must bite the other fellow twice.

There are many roses on grafted stock. This is the time when that stock will try to get away from its vicarious existence by stealing out suckers from its roots. Remove these as detected, where possible by a strong jerk, as this tears the shoot off at its point of inception, and it will not come again. It is safe to treat thus all shoots that come up at any distance from the main stem. When in doubt as to the origin of a shoot, compare its leaves with the main bush. If not identical, root it out. Keep the ground stirred and don't think because the rain has been fine that you can afford to waste any moisture. You may still plant, and for goodness sake, and the sake of San Diego, do so. Many a place has been sold by a good rose bush, though that is a mighty poor reason for planting roses. If you cannot love roses for themselves raise cauliflowers.

Labeling and Marking Plants

MISS K. O. SESSIONS

While bulbous plants are in bloom is just the time to label the varieties. Each sort by itself makes cultivation and transplanting safer and easier. Also, if the observation of varieties is made while bulbs are in good bloom, a "sport" may be detected, and it is the saving of sports that leads to new varieties.

All plant and flower growers should be ever on the alert to observe any decided variation, for it is the freak and the sport that needs to be saved, labeled and cared for carefully until the variation is found to be stable.

To read the story of how the yellow California eschscholtzia became red, by Luther Burbank, is an interesting tale.

I don't believe in being content with just the experience of one garden, so I have been over to visit a road-runner who lives on the ocean slope of Point Loma. This road-runner is a very wise bird with a reputation of being death on snakes. I found him perched on the top of a real estate sign that borders the loop electric track and his tail hung dejectedly while his body feathers started like quills upon the fretful porcupine. "Good day," said I. "What has ruffled your feathers?" He turned a red lidded eye on me and replied, "I was just thinking that my second wife and I raised a family in a bush that grew where the twenty-seventh tie comes. She was a good wife but not so satisfactory as my first; she wanted to have a vote as to where we should build our nest. But I am getting fond of this perch. I catch snatches of human talk as the cars go by, and, by the way, there was something yesterday that should interest you. A young man was reading the California Garden and he remarked to his companion. 'There is one thing this magazine lacks—the jokes—everybody looks for the jokes in the magazines.'" "Early Bird," said the road-runner, "get busy on your jokes," and he sailed off into the brush. Ever since then I have been wondering whether that wise old guy really meant that I should try and turn joke maker or start a crop of chestnuts. Chestnuts would be quite at home in a garden magazine, but I am confident that young man meant up-to-date jokes with autos, flying-machines and suffragettes in them, and all these things are sadly out of place among flowers. As a matter of fact, there is no point to a joke without the joke is on some one, and the one is a human or something that acts or speaks like a human every time. It is rather hard to imagine the flowers in a garden playing practical jokes on one another. How would it seem to hear the pigweed remark to the poppy, as he licked up all the moisture, "I gravelled you that time." Or to catch the poppy asking the stock to get on to his "glad rags." Of course nature does indulge in eccentricities. She has the "Ha Ha," if we are to adopt the language of jokedom, on the gardener many a time. She will bring his best laid schemes to naught, but only when he wilfully or ignorantly goes against her laws. Not so long ago I was offered a choice collection of strictly original jokes and declined them with thanks, not because I thought they lacked a laugh, but because I deemed their rightful position was in a theater program to fill in the intervals between dress inspection, or in a daily newspaper to lend an air of veri-similitude to its columns. To make a business of reading jokes in a garden, God save us! Why not pull weeds. There was a man once who seriously collected jokes, and possibly there have been many of them, but they could none of them have been gardeners. No, there is only one way to supply this joke need and that is to keep the subscription price where it is, fifty cents, and if you don't think that is a joke just be the early bird for a month or two, and let the joke seeker take a paper, the business of which is jokes.

Say! but we had a fine rain! The only good one in two years, and I have a joke on one of my enemies, a jungle hen. She would play at being a wild thing and made

a nest under a little pine. I inspected it and found she had a low-growing branch right through the middle of the nest, so she could try and do two things at a time, go to roost and set on eggs. When that storm came she stuck to her job the first night but looked a bit wild in the eye when she came off the next morning to forage, and I perched within hearing in the hopes of developments. They came. In the middle of the next downpour, when the wind and the rain were doing their darndest, that jungle hen gave a screech and chucked her job, and now she is poking around after my grubs and says she is going to run for the City Council, and nearly put out the eye of her lord when he suggested there were other places for nests besides under a trifling little pine.

Do the Flowers Know?

MRS. D. C. LANIER

"There's rosemary; that's for remembrance:
There's pansies; that's for thought."

Into the petals of the chrysanthemum, the adopted flower of America, does any thought creep of how much happiness it brings to a maiden's heart, or the satisfaction it affords the matron in her elegantly appointed boudoir. Hogarth says a curved line is the most graceful of all things. Does the rose, swaying upon its stem with its graceful curves, ever dream of its wondrous power, or the carnation, in its perfection, of its hidden influence?

And the violet blooming so covertly among its leaves, does it think that its perfume fills our hearts with ecstasy.

Does any flower know how many cares and sorrows are folded away, how many woes forgotten, just for its blooming? They decorate the bridal-chamber and bring solace to the grieving heart when placed upon the bier. They adorn the palace and add a charm to the humblest hut. They bear messages of love and scatter the baleful influence of the fault-finder. We cannot associate flowers with anything mean or degrading. Have you ever looked into a lily's cup and admired its wonderful coloring? Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as a lily. Can you picture a world without flowers? What dearth of happiness would be found if we were deprived of them.

Flowers, second-cousin to music, sway the impulses of the heart. Wherever you find flowers you find the sweetest influences that control nature. Flowers are full of sentiment, create an uplift, and engender an idealization of things beautiful.

Songs, symbols and sentiment intensify love of country and contribute to the making of history. Love of country is sentiment crystalized and idealized. The deeds of heroes stir the sluggish blood in our veins and we are ready to become patriots. Records upon historical pages always create fervent desire to perpetuate the memories of heroes in marble and stone. Sing "Wearing of the Green", and watch the tears of a true son of Erin. Whistle "Dixie" and one who followed Lee is ready to give the rebel yell.

A country without flowers is comparable only to a country without children; both undesirable and unimaginable. Up on Mount Rigi, seven thousand feet high, we find the Alpine rose and the edelweiss, and in the depths of the ocean are "sunless treasures" in the flower kingdom.

The fleur-de-lis, the national emblem flower of France, the thistle of Scotland, the shamrock of Ireland, the laurel of Germany, the rose of England, are worn with pride as love of country and are portrayed as emblems of patriotism in poetry and painting.

In California, where nature has been so prodigal with her gifts, flowers should receive cultivation to such an extent that its citizens should be thought flower worshippers. The canyons in San Diego should teem with the wild flowers. Every foot of space unappropriated in Balboa Park should be made so redolent with perfume and brilliant with color as to call forth the admiration of all visitors. The Floral Association should wish no fitter memorial or lasting monument of its existence than to beautify the park for the 1915 Exposition. As St. James is our patron saint let us have a city flower, and engrave it upon our letter heads, our envelopes and let stick pins and badges be worn by all loyal San Diegans.

The Vital Matter of Rain

A. D. ROBINSON

I assume responsibility for this article, not from any particular pride in it, but recognizing its heretical tendency, I seem to feel its need of a goat.

The time has come when Providence as a factor in life has reached the point of being discredited to the extent that its sphere of absolute control is much circumscribed, and even in that narrowed circle there is no forbidden ground to the modern investigator of Nature's secrets.

An era of irrigation has developed the western arid regions in a wonderful manner, and for a time has absorbed the interest of our scientific water men. Now a suspicion has arisen, fomented by scientific report on the rapid deterioration of irrigated areas, that irrigation is not the final solution of crops where rainfall is insufficient or too seasonal. A faint rumor of an electric process to cause a moisture precipitation, has been going the rounds, and signs generally point to a new activity for Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau, which is the consideration of whether it is not possible to regulate rainfall. We have had rain-makers for centuries in this country, from the Indian dancers to the modern man with his chemicals, and the mere fact that some people have believed it possible to cause rain is some evidence for the theory. The amount of water on the globe is practically a fixed quantity for the purposes of this consideration, it may be that it shifts its proportions from one place to another, also its form, but it is somewhere, and also certainly these changes are subject to law. For centuries man has dreamed of his conquests of Nature's forces before he gained the victory. In imagination he has mounted into the sky like a bird, today he follows that imagination in a machine, and maybe there is a connection between the accomplishment of this desire and the coming of scientific rain making. At any rate, it opens a new field for investigation. Man will never rain, but he may control the natural forces that do, just as with electricity, or anything else, to work with, nature is the price of man's success. For generations the mode of fertilizing our crops has been by the applying of the needed chemicals in one form or another. Now we are pressing into service a minute little organism that, living in the nodules of the roots of the pea family, collects nitrogen from the air and enriches the earth. Is this the only secret that nature has for the agriculturist? No, we are only beginning to know. All religions say that the earth was made for man. Not to be a puppet thrown here and there at the mercy of its elements, but to conquer and possess. The first requisite in doing anything is to want to do it badly enough. We must cease to be content to observe the weather in its moods. That must be only a means to the end of controlling those moods. We do it now, when we irrigate, sprinkle our lawns, heat and light our houses, only in a small way, in man's way. With all reverence be it said, we need to consider God's way.

The Lath House

It has rained and the lath house is wet—real wet—and if so be that that which is good comes, it will stay that way all March, till a musty dank odor pervades and the paths turn green. Keep out of it for your own good and for its welfare. These are the conditions that breed fine ferns, but also cold feet and the much over-worked grippe.

Continue to think about the lath house from an architectural standpoint, as you work in the outside garden. The writer has recently been horrified by an almost daily contemplation of the roof of his lath house. Its flatness, its absolute lack of all character, has appalled him and he has been forced to ask, "Why?" There is no valid excuse for the offense architecturally of the lath house of today.

The one departure from the square box style has been in curves and domes, both lacking in the essentials of ease of construction, therefore economy and real applicability to the uses of a lath house. Why not combine pergola and lath house? Let the main frame be heavy posts and cross timbers, with the roof at different levels. Say three levels, seven, nine and

eleven feet, or much higher if tall palms and such are to be grown. The highest being in the middle and the other dropping away on each side. Every roof projecting over the lower one and showing pergola construction. The sides from roof to roof might be left open as the projection would afford sufficient shade from the sun. This would give a pleasing front and break up the roof. It is merely a suggestion of something different. If the lath house is to be a general adjunct of our homes, it must cease to be an architectural offense and take on character. Before it has been suggested that a lath house should be built over a path in a garden so that it is a thoroughfare. This pergola construction would fit in splendidly with such an one. One thing all the owners of lath houses should be doing this month is to be making a list for replanting everything the freeze killed. Remember the grain of mustard seed, and act faith as well as claim it.

The 1913 Orange Show

V. O. Wallingford

The Third National Orange Show at San Bernardino, was a success.

Those who doubted that it would or could be, made a bad mistake. Some thought that the "freeze" would put the show part out of business, but the exposition of the foremost of California's industries was more than ever needed, if for no other reason than that.

When the show opened, requiring more space than ever before, it was a revelation both to the boosters and the knockers; and to the strangers who for the first time see this exhibit, words are too weak to record the impressions.

Nearly every important citrus district in the state was represented, either in the feature displays, or in the competitive fruit exhibits. They were all gathered together to demonstrate that the citrus industry was not "down and out" because of the little mishap encountered this year.

The striking things of the show were the number of feature exhibits, the artistic decorative plan, and the immensity of the showing.

Dahlia and Sweet Pea Seed with new subscriptions to California Garden.

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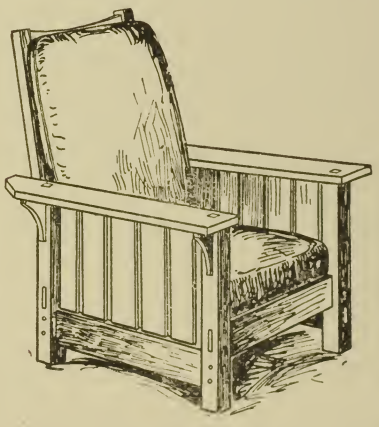

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The Marston Company

Plea for Our Native Growths

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

At the present rate of progress (?) it will not be long before we shall have to hire an automobile to reach the nearest spot where the wild growth can be seen on its native heath, for the modern real estate activities seem as deadly to it, as civilization has proven to the Indians. Most people will think this statement very overdrawn and the great hopeless majority will say, "Well, what of it. Who wants a lot of brush?"

In order to have a definite point for discussion, let us consider Ocean Beach. Less than ten years ago the entire slope was a marvelous carpet of wild flowers. Now it is a sandy checker-board, grid-ironed with cement and dotted with the modern cottage that rises up while you wait, and not ten per cent of the yards have one specimen of the wild flowers or shrubs. This is not so much the fault of the resident as the subdivider, who seems to hate everything growing from a tree to a blade of grass, and considers his plot fit for sale only after he has produced a dead level of absolute bareness. This scraping and leveling and squaring may be the right and only way to subdivide. It may be that such is the first move in the building up of a district. Certainly it has a measure of justification in its universality, but supposing there is an alternate method. Supposing there is a respectable minority who would see beauty and desirability in a plot that was covered with wild growth and had natural canyons and hillocks. Letting that supposition stand for a while, look at the fact that the finest subdividers plant trees and palms, admitting thereby a desire for the same on the part of the buyers. Now these trees and palms are invariably less suited to climate and situation than the wild growth they displaced. Returning to Ocean Beach, it is noticeable that the prevailing trade winds and the sandy nature of the soil produce a combination that defies ordinary gardening methods. In the wild brush the shrubs protect the annual seedlings, the latter growing in the lee of the former, and if in these gardens wild shrubbery had been preserved the necessary holding and protecting quality would have been to hand. Our native shrubs do not as a rule transplant easily. The large specimens of wild mahogany, for instance, have been growing perhaps for a century developing an enormous root system which enables them to withstand the summer drouths. Once destroyed they cannot be regrown in our generation. The landscape gardeners of the East have envied California the possession of this wild mahogany, regarding it as invaluable for parking purposes.

There are some signs favorable to the wild growth. One plot on the top of Point Loma has a few shrubs still standing with a surprised looking appearance, as if they half feared that they were merely reserved for a later massacre. They are not the best, but for their sake the hill may yet be spared the fate reserved for the utterly careless. Then, too, more than one nursery has specialized on California wild things and it is rumored that there is a project to park with native shrubs over a mile of one of our most famous avenue.

Why all this talk about so little? Just with the hope that it may save for posterity one, if not more, of the beautiful wild things that we don't know enough to enjoy and also to say with all the emphasis possible, preservation is so much easier than replanting.

One more thought: The wild things have learned how in the matter of much sun and little rain and a multiplication of homes may bring an allowance of water. This is a far cry, but so seemed the Ocean Beach and Point Loma of today only five years ago, and it is a safe prophecy that in less than ten years many a resident in the suburbs of San Diego will sigh for the self-supporting, sweet-smelling wild shrubbery that has been ruthlessly blotted out.

Owners of vineyards claim that the frost was a benefit to the grape vines, demonstrating once again that in all great losses there is some gain.

Package of Dahlia Seed with each new subscription to The Garden.

Acacias

Miss K. O. Sessions

Acacia Baileyana seems more glorious than ever, for this past month it has been and still is a beautiful and bountiful tree of gold. After the freeze, to see so much beauty, color and vigor, while many a more sturdy looking plant is practically dead, makes one wonder how it could be so.

Acacia Podolarifolia, one of the much prized varieties introduced about three years ago, has been killed or almost by the cold, so we must wait four or five years more to have this sort flourishing.

Acacia Binervata, which promises so well for avenue planting, suffered very little and will soon be in full bloom. This is the variety the seeds of which grow and mature a year after the blooms have faded.

Acacia Decurrens, Acacia Latifolia, Acacia Pycuantha, or golden wattle, are all in bloom at this season of the year, and make a very bright spot in any garden. Acacia Florabunda is always in bloom. Acacia Cultriformis will be blooming two weeks later.

The fact that this class of trees bloom when quite young, two to four years, are in bloom in February and March, and are strong growers, commends them for generous planting. They bloom best when the weather is cool, cloudy or rainy and the first flowers are always seen on the north side of the tree.

All acacias need very severe pruning, after the flowers have fallen and the leaf buds begin to start, for at least three years.

THE NEW COVER.

Our cover design, used this issue for the first time, is the work of a new member of the Floral Association, Mr. V. O. Wallingford, who, after seven years as assistant engineer and building inspector for the Santa Fe Railway, has opened an architect's office in the Timken Building, and is looking after the interests of Mr. Norman F. Marsh, architect for the new Baptist church, now under construction at Tenth and E streets. Mr. Wallingford has picked the Mission style of architecture, on a hillside covered with wild flowers, as a typical California scene, and its clean-cut simplicity and quiet dignity is most pleasing.

Cut Flowers

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"California Wild Flowers"

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Theodore Payne

345 South Main St., Los Angeles

The California Garden

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The San Diego Floral Association

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Our Park

Having in the past criticised park affairs, and been criticised in turn for so doing, The Garden confesses to a splendid surprise occasioned by a trip through the park. The recent public report by the board is quite justified in claiming very substantial progress during the past year towards a real park. Evidently Superintendent Morley or the board or both are making good. The Garden is almost afraid to say this lest somebody should start a move for a change in officials. When politics flourish, deeds are inefficient. Suppose San Diego should try leaving park affairs alone for awhile and have its fun with harbor development. Suppose it should pledge its new city fathers, big and little, to such a policy before electing them.

March Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Floral Association for March will be held Thursday evening, the 13th, in the rooms of the Builders' Exchange, second floor, Knights of Pythias Building, corner Third and E streets. At that time the matter of engaging a permanent place for meetings, with a fixed time, will be taken up. It seems that such a move will serve to increase the attendance at meetings, as in the past, the magazine failed to reach many of the members in time though mailed four days before the date of the meeting. It will also relieve the secretary of constantly going about with an attitude of listening for an invitation from some interested member who might realize that it was her "turn."

February Meeting

If The Garden should announce that everyone attending a meeting of the Floral Association would be given a big, round silver dollar, it is quite possible that the seating capacity would be taxed to the limit, and yet, at every meeting, any person interes'ed in plants and flowers who is able to apply the good things brought out from the experiences of others, cannot fail to get more than a dollar's worth.

At the February meeting, held at Lanier Hotel, the president took up the subject of much neglected native plants and shrubs, which he claims are superior to nine-tenths of the things we grow.

The sea dahlia came in for a strong recommendation, and the president was backed in his assertions by Miss Sessions, who told of an acre of sea dahlias at Del Mar, which are greatly admired. They are excellent for beach locations.

Some interesting points about the growth and habits of native plants and shrubs were brought out. For one thing, they don't do well in pots, and wild seed scattered on the ground seem to grow better than when carefully planted in pots. Very little work with native shrubs will give ten times the satisfaction that petted imported potted plants produce.

The russ lorina, russ integrefolia, native redwoods, romnias, wild cherry and

ANCONAS—If you want poultry for profit, get Howard's prize strain. Greatest layers on earth. Eggs for hatching, $2.00 for 15; $10.00 per 100. Member Ancona Club.—C. M. Howard, Otay, Cal.

V. O. WALLINGFORD
ARCHITECT
623 TIMKEN BLDG.
SAN DIEGO

various native plants were recommended if one wants to get away from the artificial garden.

Observations of the effect of the frost on various plants were most interesting. It would seem that what might be called the physical condition of the plant had much to do with it. Of many plants standing together with equal exposure, some would be badly nipped and others untouched. Of 24 poinsettias in a cloth house, eight escaped entirely, not even the blooms being frozen, while all the others were killed and also the other plants in the house. All over the city similar instances might be mentioned.

Resolutions were passed acknowledging the good work done for the association by Mrs. B. A. Neff, and extending sympathy to the bereaved husband and children.

As an experiment, the secretary was instructed to engage the Builders' Exchange hall, on the second floor of the K. P. building, for the March meeting, with the expectation that hereafter a regular place and time of meeting will be fixed, in order to do away with the uncertainty which has been the source of much trouble in the past, and which has undoubtedly caused many to miss the meetings.

Editor California Garden.

With no idea, of course, of discouraging the amateur gardener, but being, possibly, along the lines of that "Chickens is Chickens", article in a recent number of the Garden, I would like to submit the following:

SPRING ARITHMETIC.

It was the busy hour of four,
When from a city hardware store
Emerged a gentleman, who bore
1 hoe
1 spade
1 wheelbarrow.

From thence our hero promptly went
Into a seed establishment
And for these things his money spent:
1 peck of bulbs
1 job lot of shrubs
1 quart of assorted seeds.

He has a garden under way
And if he's fairly lucky, say
He'll have about the last of May
1 squash vine
1 egg plant
1 radish.

—*Washington Herald.*

Very respectfully,
FRED GRUMM.

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Cherimoya, seedling plants in 6-inch pots, 75c each. Plant now.

White Sapote, fine one year old stock in six inch pots. 75c each. Plant now.

Loquats, very choice budded varieties, one year old, field grown, balled. $1.50 each. Plant now.

Queensland Nut, two years, in pots, fine stock. $1.50 each. Plant now.

WEST INDIA GARDENS
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The New Member

Over on Point Loma, there is a fellow by the name of R. F. Paine—Bob for short—who is "raising things", in a more or less feeble way, and a story comes out of the east concerning his introduction into the field of floraculture.

Becoming ambitious to be recognized as a producer, Bob got a friend, Judge Frank E. Dellenbaugh, a semi-professional florist, to propose him for membership in the Cleveland Floral Association. This Dellenbaugh did, at a packed meeting of the Association, as follows:

"Fellow Members: I take pleasure in proposing for membership in our Association Mr. R. F. Paine, the gentleman at my side, and, as is customary, I will give some information as to the applicant's qualifications for membership. A fortnight ago I gave Mr. Paine six packets of perfectly good seeds—cosmos, verbena, phlox, pansy, and such. The other day I called upon him to see how he was coming on with his flower beds. He had driven six nice holes a foot deep into the ground with a broom handle, poured a packet of seeds into each hole, carefully labelled the holes 'cosmos', 'verbena', etc., etc., and he said he was all done save tamping the seeds down with his broom handle. Such is the progress Mr. Paine has made in our honorable vocation. It may not be said to be much progress, but, such as it is, I propose him for membership."

Bob had a long speech of his own prepared, but, after Dellenbaugh's effort, forgot it, and said: "I would like to join." They really voted him in, too, the chairman, however, suggesting to the treasurer that it would be well should the new member's monthly dues be collected promptly in advance.

The position taken by Dr. J. H. Webber, a citrus fruit expert, in the matter of the recent freeze, is practically the same as The Garden editor advocated last month. He calls attention to the fact that every industry suffers from occasional devastations, and that we should pay no serious attention to the freak frost of this year.

Get a copy of Hall's "Garden Helps" 75c; with California Garden, one year, $1.00. membership in Floral Association, all $1.75

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---have been *fried* in the fire until those that are left are all fine gold and their eggs are as precious as those of the Roc of Arabian Nights Dreams.

—You will want some day to walk through our yards and how will you face these lords and ladies if you have not had at least one setting of their eggs?

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